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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS

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TYPHUS FEVER.

MEASURES FOR THE PREVENTION OF ITS INTRODUCTION AT EL PASO, TEX.

On account of the increased prevalence of typhus fever throughout Mexico and its presence in the Mexican border towns, the disinfection facilities operated by the Public Health Service at El Paso have been materially enlarged. All incoming travelers are inspected, and those that appear to be vermin-infested are given treatment at the disinfection building. Their clothes and personal effects are sterilized by steam and their persons freed of vermin by the application of gasoline or a mixture of vinegar and kerosene.

As an additional precaution in preventing the interstate spread of the infection from El Paso, the railroad companies have been instructed not to issue transportation to Mexican laborers unless they present a certificate of disinfection from the Public Health Service officer in charge of the border quarantine. This measure serves the purpose of apprehending those travelers that might have effected clandestine entry into the United States.

The following circulars have been issued by Senior Surg. Pierce, in charge of border quarantine:

UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE,

El Paso, Tex., January 23, 1917.

To quarantine officers, collectors of customs, United States immigration officials, and others concerned:

On account of the widespread prevalence of typhus fever throughout Mexico, and its presence in the Mexican border towns, and the danger of the introduction of the infection into the United States, the port of El Paso, Tex., will be closed to all travel from Mexico between the hours of 7 p. m. and 7 a. m., effective 7 p. m. Saturday, January 27, 1917.

This order is published in accordance with authority of the United States Public Health Service, under the provisions of section 7 of the act of February 15, 1893.

All persons entering El Paso, Tex., from Mexico between the hours of 7 a. m. and 7 p. m. will be subject to quarantine inspection and disinfection of their person and effects when considered necessary or advisable by the quarantine officer.

UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE,
El Paso, Tex., January 24, 1917.

To transportation companies and others concerned:

Effective this date no Mexicans of the laboring class or their families are to be furnished transportation from El Paso to any other point in the United States unless they present, at the time the transportation is requested, a certificate from the United States Public Health Service similar to the one attached hereto. This certificate must be signed by the officer in charge at El Paso, and be dated not more than 24 hours prior to the time of presentation.

Further, no baggage belonging to persons of the class above mentioned shall be checked or allowed to be taken into any car unless it bears a certificate of disinfection similar to the card attached hereto.

An inspector of the United States Public Health Service will be stationed at the Union Depot to assist in enforcing this restriction, and those furnishing transportation should refer to this inspector persons that require certificates so that he may direct them to the disinfecting plant.

These certificates need not be taken up by the transportation companies from authorized labor agencies using party tickets or passes for laborers, as the employment agents will be responsible for persons shipped by them. All other Mexicans that buy their own tickets will have their certificates taken up by the transportation company, and such certificates are to be returned to the United States Public Health Service each day in envelopes to be provided for that purpose.

INTERSTATE SANITARY RELATIONS.¹

By W. C. RUCKER, Assistant Surgeon General, United States Public Health Service.

Increase in population and ease of travel in the United States have vastly changed the sanitary relations existing between the States since the formation of our Government. Originally a sparsely populated fringe of colonies bordering the Atlantic coast, having no railroads and few highways, and depending for the most part upon slow sailing craft, we have become a Nation which extends from ocean to ocean, the component parts of which are in intimate relation with one another by swiftly moving trains and rapid steamships. The original isolation of the States has ceased to be and the integration of our national life has become such that insanitary conditions in one part of the Republic must inevitably exert an untoward effect upon almost the entire body politic. As the country has become more thickly populated there has occurred a pollution of the interstate streams which endangers the water supplies of other States. The invention of refrigerator cars and the introduction of intensive methods of farming, particularly of truck gardening, have made it possible for infection to be rapidly carried in a viable state for long distances, and modern transportation has made equally possible the rapid carriage of infected persons from State to State. It is thus seen that the interstate sanitary relations of the United States are

¹ Read before the American Academy of Medicine, Detroit, Mich., June 10, 1916.